

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As a preliminary matter, the Applicants note that claim 5 was included in the list of rejected claims in the Office Action Summary, but was not explicitly discussed in the Detailed Action. Although the grounds of rejection for claim 5 are not apparent from the Office Action, the claim now depends from an allowable claim and therefore is also believed to be allowable, as discussed below.

Regarding the objection to claims 1 and 15 under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(i), these claims now include line indentations separating the claimed elements. It is thus respectfully submitted that the amended claims fully comply with 37 CFR 1.75(d)(i). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections are respectfully requested.

Most of the former claims were rejected under 35 USC 102 or 103. Although the Applicants in no way concede that the claim rejections are proper, some of the rejected claims have been amended as discussed below in an effort to place the application into condition for allowance.

In particular, the Applicants note with thanks the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter on page 5 of the Office Action. It was acknowledged in the Office Action that claims 2, 3, 10, 11, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 2, and accordingly amended claim 1 represents former claim 2 rewritten in independent form. Claim 2 has therefore been cancelled, and claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1 instead of from cancelled claim 2. Claims 4 to 7 all depend from amended claim 1.

Independent claim 9 has similarly been amended to include all of the limitations of former claim 10, which has been cancelled. Claim 11, which depended from claim 10, has been amended to instead depend from claim 9. Claims 13 and 14 depend from amended claim 9.

Finally, independent claim 15 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 19, which has been cancelled. Claim 16 depends from amended claim 15.

It will thus be apparent that the independent claims 1, 9, and 15 as amended correspond to claims 2, 10, and 19 rewritten in independent form. Page 5 of the Office Action indicated that such rewritten claims would be allowable. All of the other claims which remain in the application depend from one of the allowable claims and thus are also believed to be allowable.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favourable consideration of the application are respectfully requested. The Applicants look forward to receiving the Notice of Allowance for the application.

In the event that any issues remain to be resolved prior to allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone so as to most expediently resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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